<u>**Re Box No. V**</u>

1. The subject matter of **claim 1** is not novel.

   The publication **D1** = **"Best Current Practices for Third Party Call Control in the Session Initiation Protocol (draft-ietf-sipping-3pcc-04); 30-06-2003"** discloses all the feature of claim 1: A method for connecting subscribers using at least one communication network, comprising the following steps: capturing data characterizing a first subscriber and a second subscriber by means of a server (pages 32-33), establishing a first signaling connection between the server and the first subscriber and a second signaling connection between the server and the second subscriber with reference to the data, linking the two signaling connections together to form a continuous signaling connection between the two subscribers (pages 27-28; and Figure 12).

2. The dependent **claims 2-11** do not meet the requirements of the PCT with regard to novelty and inventive step, because their additional features are either known from **D1** ("the server is configured as a WEB application" in **claim 2** [page 25, paragraph 1; and Figure 12]; "the identity of subscribers accessing the server is determined with reference to the captured data" in **claim 5** [page 32]; "establishing a bearer between the subscribers" in **claim 7** [Figure 12]; "the server is assigned to a PSTN operator" in **claim 10** [page 28]) or are **typical measures** ("the IP address is captured as characterizing data" in **claim 3**; "is used to ascertain which software is used for transferring information into the communication network by the subscriber who is accessing the server" in **claim 4**; "first-time registration" in **claim 6**; "the existence of the bearer is checked" in **claim 8**; "a charging data record is logged" in **claim 9**; "the telephone bill of the PSTN operator" in **claim 11**).

3. Independent **claim 12** does not meet the requirement of novelty, because its computer program product features correspond to the method-related features of claim 1.

4. Independent **claim 13** does not meet the requirement of novelty, because its device features correspond to the method-related features of claim 1.

5. Independent **claim 14** does not meet the requirement of novelty, because its arrangement features correspond to the method-related features of claim 1.